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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Rm 711
Washington, DC 20423

August 14, 2006

Re: CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment - Middlesex County, Massachusetts; STB Docket Number AB-55 (Sub-no. 670X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This comment should be treated as a protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of the Town of Natick, Massachusetts which is a local municipal government agency interested in transportation and natural resources, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Endpoint A - QBX 2.54 and Endpoint B - QBX 0.15.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat and green space and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time because of Massachusetts General Law regarding property acquisition and all necessary due diligence tasks required to undertake such an undertaking.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 9(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29. The Town of Natick is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by CSX Transportation, Inc., and operated by CSX or its assigns.

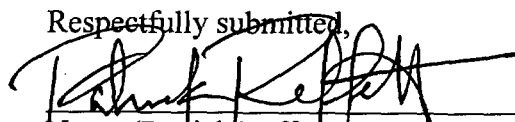
The property, known as the Saxonville Industrial Track extends from railroad milepost QBX 2.54 near (endpoint a) to railroad milepost QBX 0.15 near (endpoint b), a distance of 2.39 miles in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-no. 670X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

The Town of Natick acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon CSX Transportation, 500 Water Street -J200, Jacksonville, FL 32202 by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 14th day of August, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Name (Patrick/Reffett, Community
Development Director)

On behalf of: The Town of Natick, MA

Attachment 1

MA-017-0999502

LEGEND

CSXT Operating Corridor
Proposed Abandonment

Total Distance - 2.39 Miles +/-

NORTHERN REGION
ALBANY DIVISION
BOSTON SUBDIVISION
SAXONVILLE INDUSTRIAL TRACK
QBX 0.15 - QBX 2.54
STB Docket No. AB55
(Sub. No. 670X)

END ABANDONMENT
QBX 2.54 = V.S. 133+92 +/-

BEGIN ABANDONMENT
QBX 0.15 = V.S. 7+94 +/-

CSX TRANSPORTATION

**Proposed Abandonment of the
SAXONVILLE INDUSTRIAL TRACK**
QBX 0.15 - QBX 2.54 (2.39 Miles)
City of Natick, Middlesex County, MA

CSX
RAIL PROPERTY

Revised: April 28, 2008
Drawn By: L. Fenwick

SCALE: 1" = 1500'

